

March newsletter
Maart nuusbrieff
2025

PLAASLIKE NUUS | LOCAL NEWS

Ontmoet PMSA se EXCO

Agter van links is Niel du Preez van NWKV, voorsitter; Marco Coetzee van Mohair SA; Gerhard Schutte van Livestock Welfare Coordinating Committee (LWCC); dr Frikkie Maré van die RPO, visevoorsitter; John Hurter van Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA); dr Sam Ferreira, SANParks, en Dan Kriek, NWKV.

Voor van links is Karla Esterhuysen van Mohair SA; Niel Viljoen, predasie-spesialis; Dewald Olivier van Rooivleisbedryfsdiens (RMIS); Lizanne Nel, Suid-Afrikaanse Jagters- en Wildbewaringsvereniging.



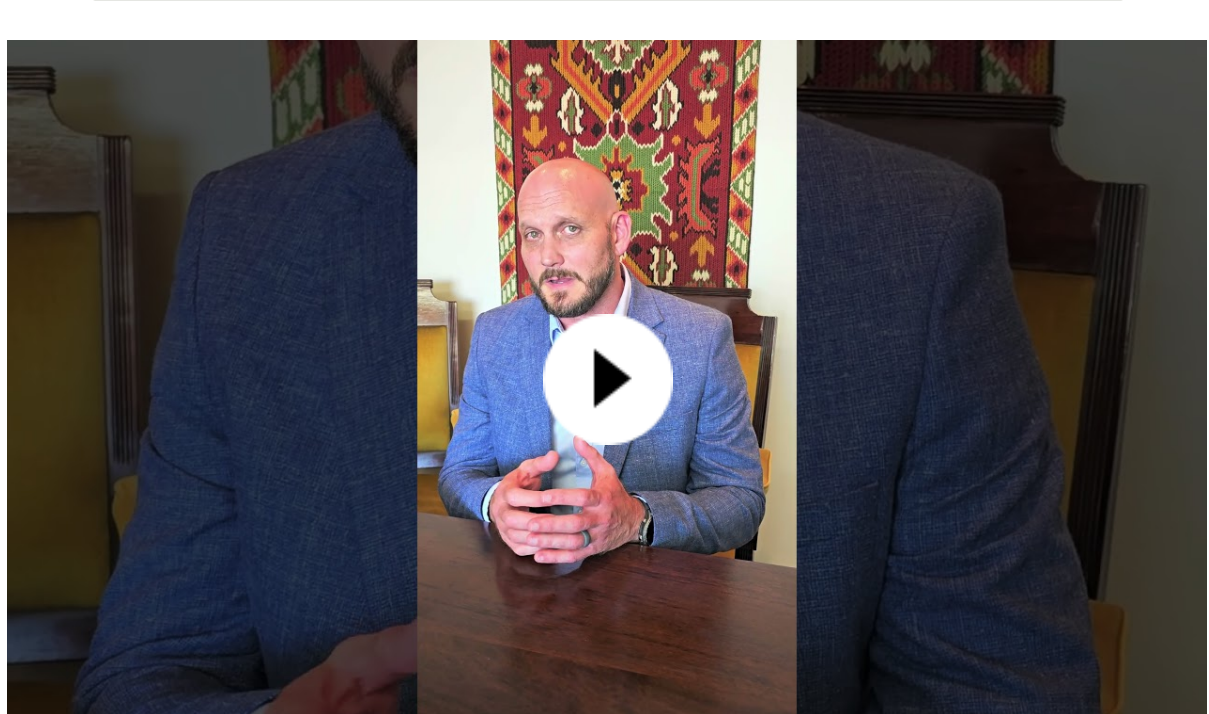
RMIS commits to funding PMSA

For wool and meat producers alike, the impact of predators on profitability, sustainability, and animal welfare, remains significant. Recognising this, the Red Meat Industry Services (RMIS) has proudly committed to funding the core budget for Predation Management South Africa (PMSA) for the current financial year.

Dewald Olivier, CEO of RMIS, said that this strategic investment is more than just a line item in a budget, it is a clear signal that sustainability, producer support, and long-term resilience in the red meat value chain are fundamental pillars of RMIS's mission.

Olivier further stated, that "as we work together to build a resilient red meat sector, we invite the National Woolgrowers Association of SA (NWGA), Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO), Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA), Mohair SA, and its members to stand with us in support of PMSA. Let us continue to develop practical, evidence-based solutions that protect our flocks, our farmers, and the future of livestock farming in South Africa.

[Click here to read full report on funding predation management.](#)



Predation management training

The one-day predation management information day covers predator biology and behaviour, farmer-predator interactions, and various control methods. Special attention is given to cage traps and leg-holding devices, including a demonstration of their use. Course registration is R200 per person, payable on the day of the course.

LIVESTOCK & PREDATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING BY NIEL VILJOEN, PREDATION SPECIALIST

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Die eendaagse predasiebestuursinligtingsdag dek roofdiër-biologie en -gedrag, boer-roofdiërinteraksies en verskeie beheermetodes. Spesiale aandag word gegee aan vanghokke en vangysters, insluitend 'n demonstrasie van die gebruikte daaraan. Kursusregistrasie is R200 per persoon, betaalbaar op die dag van die kursus.

Contact PMSA Secretariat if you are interested
(041) 3655030 ; nwga@nwga.co.za

Supported by Red Meat Industry Services

LIVESTOCK & PREDATION MANAGEMENT TRAINING BY NIEL VILJOEN, PREDATION SPECIALIST

Predation management Info day
Integrated predation management
Identification of predators
Regulatory framework

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Conservancies as a tool for predation management

During the recent executive committee meeting of PMSA, Emily Lazenby, landscape practitioner for Eastern Cape Conservancies Management Association, presented the concept of conservancies as an interested and affected party in relation to predation management, in the following manner:



- Extensive centralised network of livestock farmers, hunters, and game ranchers, **with collective management strategies.**
- Ability to implement best practices for predation management **at a landscape-level as opposed to a farm level.**



First-hand info from SANParks

PMSA is privileged to have the likes of Dr Sam Ferreira, SANParks specialist scientist: Large mammals part of the executive committee. During the past meeting, an extensive report relating to predator influences on neighbouring parks, livestock interaction with parks, and predator challenges in large parks and transfrontier conservation areas, were communicated.

From left is Dr Frikkie Maré of RPO, Dewald Olivier of RMIS, and Dr Sam Ferreira of SANParks.



From the desk of Predation Management Centre (PMC)

Warthogs: Unintentional allies of predators in livestock farming

Livestock farming is crucial to South Africa's agricultural sector, contributing about 11,8% to the gross value of agricultural products, and supporting food security. Livestock producers face many challenges, including drought, animal diseases, stock theft, and significant losses from predation, all of which threaten their financial viability and operational success.

A key goal for sheep farmers is for each ewe to successfully rear and wean at least one lamb annually. This fundamental goal is increasingly jeopardised by a rising population of predators, and other threats, which exacerbate the risks to livestock. Producers strive to implement preventative measures, such as electric and jackal-proof fencing, to protect their herds. While traditional predator species certainly pose threats, the role of warthogs as contributors to livestock predation is often underestimated.

Research by Hoffman, Leslie, and Swanepoel (2016) on "Farmers' perceptions of the extra-limital common warthog in the Northern Cape and Free State Provinces, South Africa" already highlights negative perceptions of warthogs among producers more than ten years ago, linking them to infrastructure damage. With recent increase in warthog sightings, the concern over their impact has resurfaced again. Damaged fences and holes dug underneath by warthogs not only incur costs but also create access points for predators, complicating livestock protection efforts.



Warthogs uprooting vegetation is a high-impact form of veld degradation that destroys vital grazing resources for sheep. A farmer told *Farmers Weekly* (8 Nov 2023) that, "they plough through the soil, upending everything – leaving nothing for the sheep to graze. They go into lucerne fields and annihilate everything." Warthogs are opportunistic feeders, mainly focussing on grasses, roots, berries, and bulbs, but they will also scavenge dead animals, and eat dung or meat.

Producer Theroux Kemp (also Northern Cape vice-chairperson of NWGA and chairperson of the Predation Management Forum [PMF]), mentioned in the February 2025 edition of the PMSA newsletter that "producers ... say warthogs have now progressed to catching lambs and have injured bigger sheep so badly that they had to be culled." The sheep were not afraid of warthogs, meaning they could easily infiltrate the flock and get access to an 'easy' protein source.

Although the well-documented behaviour and impacts of main predator species do play a role, external factors or species can inadvertently aid predation. Animals such as donkeys, alpacas and Anatolian dogs can deter warthogs from potentially damaging the fences of isolation camps (where ewes are kept during lambing seasons), but in larger camps this type of control is less effective against warthogs. A source at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental Affairs (DFFE) indicated that warthogs were listed as a species of concern, although reproduction rates were high – they have 2 to 6 piglets per year. The source advised farmers wishing to shoot warthogs that are problematic, to approach their provincial environmental department for permission. By recognising the complex dynamics at play, producers can attempt to implement more effective management practices, ensuring both the viability of their farms and the country's food security.

This article was written by Dr Beanérlí Janecke of the Predation Management Centre at the University of the Free State. For a full list of references or more information, please send an email to JaneckeBB@ufs.ac.za

From the desk of Mohair South Africa

Upholding ethical standards during hunting season

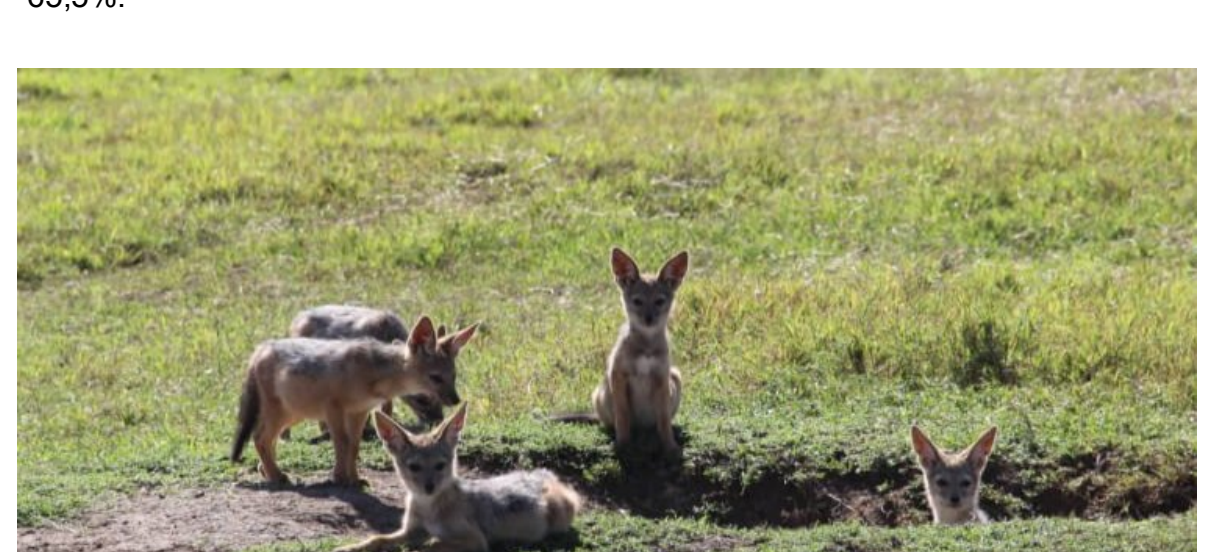
As hunting season commences, Mohair South Africa urges caution among producers regarding posting hunting photos on social media platforms. We strongly advise against engaging in Angora goat hunting practices of any kind. Photos depicting questionable animal welfare practices can significantly harm the reputation of the entire mohair industry. It is crucial that we cooperate and adhere strictly to ethical principles to uphold the integrity and sustainability of our industry.



TEGNEIESE ARTIKELS | TECHNICAL ARTICLES

Doelgerigte predasiebestuur verg die regte metodes én bestuur

Die impak van 'n geïntegreerde bestuursprogram om veeverliese weens predasie te verminder, word duidelik weerspieël in statistiek wat oor 'n tydperk van 13 jaar op monitorplase in ses provinsies van die land ingesamel is. In 2008 was die verlies aan vee 3 320 diere, teenoor 1 133 diere in 2020 – 'n verbetering van 65,5%.



LEES MEER